



GURKHA WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE (UK) ENewsletter

Gurkhas living out their lives with dignity



Namaste
Issue 9

February 2016

Welcome to the 9th edition of GWAC ENewsletter. I hope you find the news interesting, informative and useful.

Changes to Pension Credit (PC)

Travelling abroad - as pointed out in our last ENewsletter, the rules for going abroad for those in receipt of Pension Credit will change from 1 April this year. Individuals who depart the UK before the effective date (1 Apr 2016) will still be entitled to 13 weeks absence without impact on their PC; but from the effective date onwards, individuals will only be allowed 4 weeks absence before their PC is liable to be stopped. This policy applies to all British citizens and not just Gurkhas. You should therefore note that your PC could be at risk if you fail to return to the UK within the stated period of 4 weeks.

Earning whilst in receipt of PC - it has come to our attention that individuals are still not reporting their income from work whilst receiving PC. Any income from work or Army Service Pension must be reported to DWP otherwise individuals will have to pay back all the overpayments. You could be taken to court on fraud charges if you fail or refuse to pay back your overpayment.

It is the responsibility of each individual to report to DWP of their Service Pension increment each year in April. Therefore do not wait for a DWP notification letter.

Change of circumstances (COC): we would still like to emphasize that changes in personal circumstance must be reported to the DWP Pension Service on 0345 60 60 265. These include: change of home address, bank details, going abroad, loss of partner and changes in income. If you are unable to or can't find anyone to help you to access this service, please contact GWAC Salisbury or GWAC Aldershot.

Financial threshold for sponsoring children

Sons and daughters of ex-Gurkhas who have UK settlement rights and are in employment can sponsor their partner and children to settle in the UK provided the individual sponsor meets the following annual earning threshold:

- Partner only - £18,600
- Partner + 1 child - £22,400 (addition of £3,800)
- Partner + 2 children - £24,800 (addition of £2,400)
- Partner + 3 children - £27,200 (addition of £2,400)

• To date, GWACs Offices (Salisbury & Aldershot) have dealt with **5183** welfare cases since 2005.

For information on supporting documents required for sponsorship, please contact your respective GWAC office.

State Pension Changes

To get the latest news on State Pension Changes, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension/overview> where you will be able to get more detailed information.

National Insurance Number (NINO) Application

You are reminded that too many new arrivals to the UK are living at a different address rather than at the address they registered at GSO when registering for NINO application. This is causing unnecessary workload to NINO Centre Glasgow, as they are having to resend application forms. They have requested that such practices be stopped as quickly as possible, as this not only causes unnecessary burden and duplication of tasks; but also wastes papers, time and money.

GSO has already been informed to brief all individuals registering at GSO. Please do inform all those in your community as well.

Earthquake (EQ) Rebuilding Phase in Nepal

You will be glad to know that GWT has earnestly begun the EQ rebuilding phase. Below is the first earthquake resistant home of Dharamsing Tamang and his wife built from the EQ fund. Many more such houses will be built and we will update our readers as we receive progress reports from Nepal. Repair to water supply system and schools are also ongoing.



For suggestions/comments: send it to our email address at:

Gurkhaenquiries@gwt.org.uk.



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- GWT grants £250,000 annually to ABF 'The Soldiers' Charity' for the help they provide to Gurkhas in the UK.

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